The consignment was subjected to reproof by firing 13 rounds in December, 1995 out of which 12 rounds recorded failures. In view of the unsatisfactory performance of the ammunition during check proof, the consignment was recommended as "Not fit for Use"and quality claim raised against the firm.

The case is being referred to CBI for investigation. Further action will be taken on receipt of CBI's report.

Purchase of T-90 Tanks from Russia

†2780. SHRI SATISH CHANDRA SITARAM PRADHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to State:

(a) wether Government are considering to purchase T-90 tanks from Russia inspite of the fact that these tanks were rejected earlier;

(b) if so, the reasons for rejecting first and purchasing now;

(c) the test report of these tanks; and

(d) whether these tanks are better than Pakistani tanks?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Yes, Sir, These tanks were not rejected earlier.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) AHQ have submitted General Staff Evaluation Report recommending induction of these tanks into service.

(d) The comparative analysis suggests that T-90S tank is superior to all known tanks in service with Pakistan.

Massacre of Sikhs in J & K

†2781. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether armed terrorists had shot dead 37 innocent sikhs at Chattisinghpura village in Anantnag district in Kashmir recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.